

1 IN THE SPECIFICATION

2 Please replace the following identified paragraphs with the following amended text.

3 1. Replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 25 of the specification with the following
4 paragraph:

5 A common display or a display on each machine displays the accumulated value of the
6 combinations within the second group of combinations generated by all the linked gaming
7 machines. The display on each machine may be a video display that displays the main game as
8 well as the bonus game. Since both games can ~~[[be]]~~ run using the same electrical circuitry (e.g.,
9 memory and a processor), no additional hardware is needed.

10
11 2. Replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 21 of the specification with the following
12 paragraph:

13 ~~[[Fig. 5 is]]~~ Figs. 5A and 5B are a detailed flowchart of the preferred method performed
14 by the linked gaming machine system.

15
16 3. Replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 3 of the specification with the following
17 paragraph:

18 Fig. 2 is a flow chart illustrating an operation of one embodiment of ~~[[a]]~~ the linked
19 gaming system 100 of Fig. 1. Such an operation may be controlled by a program stored in ROM
20 126.

1 4. Replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 28 of the specification with the following
2 paragraph:

3 In step 210, feature controller 110 compares the game results of each gaming machine
4 101-108 polled to feature enabling criteria stored in ROM 126 (or elsewhere) to determine
5 whether one or more predetermined features should be enabled. The feature enabling criteria
6 may consist of any of a variety of conditions. For example, in one embodiment, a criterion for
7 enabling the feature may be a specified number of occurrences (including one) of a
8 predetermined combination of ~~[[indica]]~~ indicia displayed by the gaming machines 101-108.

9 Thus, for example, the feature may be enabled for a system of linked slot machines when four
10 like symbols have been displayed a total of four times by the linked slot machines.
11

12 5. Replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 5 of the specification with the following
13 paragraph:

14 In ~~[[Fig. 5]]~~ Figs. 5A and 5B, the general method of Fig. 4 is described but with several
15 additional variations.
16

17 6. Replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 7 of the specification with the following
18 paragraph:

19 In Fig. ~~[[5]]~~ 5A, a game on one of the linked gaming machines is initiated in step 300,
20 and it is determined in step 308 whether the resulting symbol combination is a bonus hit, as
21 previously described. If the symbol combination is not a bonus hit, it is determined in step 312
22 whether combination is a normal winning combination. If it is determined that the combination

1 is a normal winning combination, a signal is sent to the CPU of the gaming machine to pay out
2 the appropriate number of coins to the player (step 314 in Fig. 5B). If the symbol combination is
3 not a winning combination, the process is repeated.

4
5 7. Replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 19 of the specification with the
6 following paragraph:

7 As shown in step 420 in Fig. [[5]] 5A if it is determined that the combination is a bonus
8 hit, then an individual hit counter within that particular gaming machine is incremented by a
9 predetermined amount such as by one or a fraction. The value in the hit counter may be used
10 later when determining whether a bonus will be awarded to the player.

11
12 8. Replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 32 of the specification with the
13 following paragraph:

14 If the common bonus count plus the bonus hit value does not equal or exceed the
15 threshold, it is then determined whether the common bonus count plus the bonus hit value plus
16 the individual count in the machine's hit counter is greater than or equal to the threshold of 30
17 (step 540). If the answer is yes, the player is a bonus winner. The count used by the player from
18 the hit counter to reach the threshold is then deducted from the machine's individual hit counter
19 (step 544 in Fig. 5B).

1 9. Replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 6 of the specification with the following
2 paragraph:

3 All the above actions are performed by the individual gaming machines, as indicated with
4 the asterisk next to the step in [[Fig. 5]] Figs. 5A and 5B. At this point in the process, the total
5 points accumulated by the player from the bonus hit value and the individual hit counter are
6 added to the common bonus count for the system (step 548 in Fig. 5B). If this process is being
7 performed for the first time for that particular bonus hit, it will result in a new common bonus
8 count value, and the process will then go back to step 530 to determine if the total now meets the
9 threshold of 30. If this is the second reiteration, there will be no new common bonus count
10 value, and the process continues on the polling step 556.

11
12 10. Replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 1 of the specification with the following
13 paragraph:

14 In step 564 of Fig. 5B, it is determined whether the individual hit counter in the machine
15 is greater than or equal to a certain threshold, such as 50. It is desirable that the count in this
16 individual hit counter be cashed in whenever possible for player satisfaction. If the individual hit
17 counter is above this threshold, then the individual wins an additional bonus award, and a
18 predetermined number of points, such as 30, are subtracted from the individual hit counter (step
19 568).

11. Replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 10 of the specification with the following paragraph:

Based on the determinations in step 530, 540, and 548, the gaming machine which generated the particular bonus hit combination pays the bonus award to the player (step 314 of Fig. 5B).